Letters to the editor

Zones

Dear Editor:

Residents of Lackawanna County will be interested, I believe, in the proposal for creation of "enterprise zones" that the President mentioned in his State of the Union address Tuesday night.

This program would provide special incentives to attract new business, new jobs, and new opportunity to urban areas suffering from high unemployment. These incentives might include federal, state, and local tax advantages.

Areas that would qualify for designation as an enterprise zone would have to have unemployment rates above the national average, a high percentage of families with incomes below the so-called "poverty level," significant population losses in recent years, or similar indications of economic difficulty. At least, these are the types of qualifications being discussed.

Lackawanna County, being an urban county with high unemployment, might well qualify. If it does, the Enterprise Zone Program could provide economic benefits we badly need.

Details of this new proposal remain to be worked out, and Congress will have to draft and approve authorizing legislation. The House Small Business Committee will play a major role in this process, and, as a senior member of that committee, I intend to be in the forefront of that effort.

Accordingly, I will pursue the possibility of Lackawanna County being designated an enterprise zone.

Sincerely
Joseph M. McDade